Duping of farmers by officials of CCI

3081. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dealers and the officials in the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) are making the money by duping the farmers in the purchase of cotton especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to avoid such misuse by the dealers and officials and to benefit the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No Sir. Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) is making purchases directly from the cotton growers in the Agricultural Market Committees (AMCs) yard and not through any dealer or commission agents whatsoever. Since cotton season 2008-09 the Director of Agriculture Marketing, Andhra Pradesh has taken the responsibility of identification of farmers selling kapas in the AMC market yard, hence question of involvement of any dealer or commission agents or officials of CCI in the procurement thereby duping the farmers in procurement does not arise.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The Corporation is making all out efforts in conducting purchase operations in a fair and transparent manner to ensure quality-based price to the cotton farmers. With a view to enable conduct of smooth MSP operations to the benefit of cotton farmers, the Corporation has taken up following issues with the State Government:—

(i) Quality based price by proper testing of moisture.

(ii) To arrange for orderly auction of kapas in the AMCs on the basis of quality and grade;

(iii) Market Committees should submit purchase documents of cotton farmers in time for timely release of payments by CCI to farmers by Account Payee cheques.

(iv) Installation of weighbridges at AMCs for timely weighment.

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The House re-assembled at twelve of the clock,

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report and Accounts (2008-09) of ADA, Banglore and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—